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UNCLAS MADRID 000950

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SUBJECT: SPAIN ON NON G-8 PLEDGES FOR CHORNOBYL SHELTER FUND

REF: STATE 49212

We sent reftel message to Francisco Arana Landa, Subdirector General for Nuclear Energy in the Ministry of Economy. Arana told us March 18 that due to the impending change of government (the Socialist party ousted the incumbent Popular Party in the March 14 general elections), the current administration could offer no pledges of support for the Chornobyl Shelter Fund at this time. Post will contact Arana once the new government is in place, perhaps by early May, to revisit this issue.

ARGYROS